

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09533

LIMDIS

USOECD

DEPARTMENT PASS CEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN REACTION TO OECD SECRETARIAT PAPERS
FOR NEXT EPC MEETING

1. ECONOMICS MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY TIETMEYER
IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE TODAY
INDICATED THAT WHILE DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR NEXT
EPC MEETING MAY OR MAY NOT BE USEFUL AS A SECRETARIAT
EXERCISE, IN HIS VIEW EPC ITSELF COULD NOT ENDORSE
THEM OR AGREE TO THIS TYPE OF QUANTITATIVE POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS. HE, TIETMEYER, CERTAINLY WOULD NOT
BE ABLE TO DO SO AHEAD OF INTERNAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT
DELIBERATIONS AND WOULD HAVE TO DO SOME EQUIVOCATING
DURING THE EPC DISCUSSION.

2. WHILE ECONOMICS MINISTRY HAS PRETTY CLEAR IDEA
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ON THE STIMULATIVE MEASURES IT FAVORS "IF AND WHEN"
SUCH A PROGRAM DECIDED UPON, THE "IF AND WHEN" DECISION
HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE, AND TIETMEYER PERSONALLY FELT
THAT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD BE PREPARED
TO DO SO BEFORE JULY. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS QUITE
OBVIOUS FROM RECENT STAKING OUT OF PUBLIC POSITIONS
THAT ECONOMICS MINISTER LAMBSDORFF AND FINANCE

MINISTER MATTHOEFER HAVE QUITE DIFFERENT VIEWS AS
TO WHAT TYPE OF STIMULATIVE PROGRAM TO ADOPT IF
AND WHEN THE GOVERNMENT COMES TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT SIGNIFICANT FURTHER STIMULATION IS CALLED FOR.
THE CHANCELLOR WILL BE FACED WITH DIFFICULT POLITICAL
DECISIONS (I.E., TAKING ON THE LEFT WING OF THE SPD)
AT THAT TIME AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO GET
A PROGRAM ENACTED. IN THE MEANTIME EFFORTS TO NAIL
DOWN A QUANTITATIVE PROGRAM IN MULTI-NATIONAL FORUMS -
SUCH AS ATTEMPTED BY THE EC COMMISSION - ARE IN
TIETMEYER'S VIEW COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. MORE QUALITATIVE
EFFORTS - SUCH AS VAN LENNEP'S POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT
POLICIES PROPOSAL - ON THE OTHER HAND, CAN BE HELPFUL.
STOESSEL

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